AN INVITATION OF LOVE

To all who Hunger and Thirſt after Righteouſneſs, to come and take of the Water of Life freely without Money and without Price.

With a Word of Advice to ſuch as are Asking the WAY to *SION* (and are Weeping) with their Faces thither-ward.

Together with

A faithful Warning to the Inhabitants of BABYLON, to come out of her, leſt (partaking of her Sins) ye alſo come to partake of her Plagues.

By Iſabel Yeamans.

And I heard a Voice from Heaven, ſaying, Come out of her my People, that ye be not Partakers of her Sins, and that ye receive not of her Plagues, Rom. 18. 4.

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TO THE READER

Friendly Reader;

WHen in the weighty and deep Meditations of my Heart I beheld the States and Conditions of such as are inquiring the Way to *Sion*, and have some tender desires begotten in them after the Lord, and the Knowledge of his Way; my Life was abundantly drawn forth in the Love of God, with living Breathings unto him (in whom all Fulness dwells) that of the Manifestation and free Dispensations of his Love & Life all such may come to feel and receive, and to take heed of sleighting the Day of their tender Visitation, whilst the Lord secretly calls unto them by his good Spirit in their Bosoms, lest the Night overtake them, wherein no man can work.

And in the Senſe of the Univerſal Love of God extended unto *All* Mankind, I was conſtrained in my Spirit to commit theſe following lines to publick view, as finding my Burden unremoved until I was made willing to communicate the ſame, which I have done with as much brevity as I could with Clearneſs, hoping the ponderous Reader, and ſuch whom it chiefly concerns, may not be diſtaſted at the ſimplicity of the Srile, or my want of Eloquence in expreſſing my ſelf in things of this nature, having herein hinted at divers things which I have experienced through the free Love of God to my Soul, which ſeeming but little and low things, yet may not miſs of ſome ſervice for the ſtirring up of the ſimple-minded, to make a diligent ſearch how the Caſe ſtands betwixt God and their Immortal Souls, who thereby coming to ſee their Conditions, and their Neglect and Diſobedience, in not anſwering the Lord's Requirings, according to the Manifeſtations and divine Diſcoveries of his Light and Grace in their Hearts, may come to redeem their Miſ-

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ſpent Time (which is irrevocable) and take up a Holy Reſolution, by the Aſſiſtance of the Grace of God to redeem their Time to come, by a Godly, Righteous and Sober Converſation, in the Fear of the Lord, and by taking heed to this pure Principle of Light, and Life, may come to be enabled thereby to perform that Duty and acceptable Service which the Lord requires of them, and receive the Reward of the Profitable and Obedient Servant, is the Deſire of my Soul.

And that none may ſleight the Day of ſmall things, but be faithful to what little meaſure the Lord commits to them, and thereby to become worthy of more.

So not deſirous to be tedious, or to undertake great things, I recommend the Reader to the following Lines, whoſe Mind I deſire may be poſſeſſed with ſerioufneſs, and with the Fear of the Lord, when exerciſed in reading of things relating to Eternity; ſo ſhall ſuch reap Benefit hereby, and anſwer the End of my Labours and Travails, which

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is the Well-being of their IMMORTAL SOULS.

This is chiefly intended for the Northern Parts of this Nation, where many are thirsting afresh after the Truth, although ignorant of it; and that such may be informed of the Way thereto, and reap Everlasting Life by it, is my Soul's Desire.

Isabell Yeamans.

An INVITATION *of* LOVE *to all that Hunger and Thirſt after Righteouſneſs, &c.*

TO all you who are ignorant of the Way of Life and Salvation, and are ſeeking the Living amongſt the Dead Tombs and Sepulchres, and are wandring in the Night, in the dead Forms and empty Profeſſions, Will-Worſhips and Traditions of Men, which are ſet up, held and performed in man's Will, and in man's Time, and not in God's Time, nor according to his Mind and Will, and therefore are an Abomination unto him.

Now that all ſuch may be informed aright, my Teſtimony and Exhortation in the Fear of the Lord is, That he is not there, but is ariſen and aſcended far above all Heavens; the Stone is roled from the Door of the Sepulchre, and the Grave-Clothes are left behind; the Watch-men of the Night could not hold him, nor the Grave contain him: Oh! look not for him where he is not to be found, as the Angel ſaid to *Mary Magdalen* and the other Women, *He is not here, he is riſen*, and they declared his Refurrection, *John* 20. 17. *Matth.* 28. 7. Where 'tis manifeſt, that the firſt Witneſſes that were commiſſionated (and that by the Angel of the Lord) to preach the Refurrection of Chriſt Jeſus, were Women, who (as its written) returned

returned with Fear and great Joy, and could not but declare what they had ſeen and heard concerning the Lord Chriſt, though yet it ſeemed to ſome (yea, of the Diſciples themſelves, who were afterwards convinced of the Truth of thoſe Women's Teſtimonies) as idle Tales; as it ſeems to many in this Age, becauſe the Reſurrection is held forth and born Teſtimony unto by Women: but bleſſed be the Lord, he hath raiſed up many, both Sons and Daughters, to be living Witneſſes this day of his inward and ſpiritual Appearance, and Power of his Reſurrection and Aſcenſion. So look not for him in the Shadows and Forms without the Power and Subſtance, nor be ſatisfied with the hearing of him by the hearing of the Ear, or a notional Traditional Knowledge, without the ſaving Knowledge of his Power; for until you come to know his Power and Life in your ſelves, to ſave you from Evil, you are not come to the Subſtance; but are ſtill running from Mountain to Hill, as Sheep having no Shepherd, ſeeking living Bread in deſolate places, and hewing unto your ſelves Ciſterns that will hold no Water (an Evil which the Lord complain'd of among the Children of *Iſrael*) ſaying, *Ye have forſaken me the Fountain of Living Water, and hewn unto your ſelves Ciſterns that can hold no Water.* So come ye off the Mountains of *Eſau*, into the low Valleys, where the Springs of Life you may feel, and come into the Valley of *Jehoſaphat*, where the Lord pleads with all fleſh by Sword & by Fire, that through his deep Judgment for Sin and Tranſgreſſion, through true Acknowledgment and Repentance the Valley of *Achor* may be known to be a Door of Hope to the

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Tranſgreſſors, and by this Hope through Faith come to receive Chriſt in you the Hope of Glory, who is the Reſurrection of the Juſt unto Life, and of the Unjuſt unto Condemnation; the firſt begotten from the Dead, and the firſt born of every Creature, and now glorified with the Father the Creator of all things; who made the Heavens and the Earth, the Sea, and the Fountains of Water; who formed the Mountains, and created the Winds, and declares unto man what his Thoughts are, *Amos* 4. 13. the Lord of Hoſts is his Name: He is making himſelf known in the Hearts of people by his great Power, who will overturn and remove all Mountains and Hills that may be ſhaken or removed, that that alone which cannot be ſhaken may remain; then ſhall the Loftineſs of the Heart of Man be brought down, and the Haughtineſs thereof laid low, that all Fleſh may fear and tremble before the Lord, who gives unto all Life, Breath and Being.

And as Man and Woman comes to believe in the Light of Chriſt Jeſus, which diſcovers and makes manifeſt unto them the moſt ſecret Thoughts and Intents of their Hearts, that they are continually Evil (in the unregenerate ſtate) for as the Lord ſaid, *Every Imagination of the Heart of Man was only Evil continually*, Gen. 6. 5. and the Prophet ſaith, *The Heart is Deceitful above all things, and deſperately Wicked; who can know it? I the Lord ſearch the Heart and try the Reins, to give unto every Man according to his Wayes.*

This Light, I ſay, being believed in, kept to, and obeyed, is able to work a Change, and to cleanſe the Heart, that was corrupted by Sin and Tranſgreſſion,

and to beget good Thoughts and good Desires, and to judge down the contrary, even all the Corrupt Wayes that man in his own Inventions has involved himself into, and forsaken his Maker: But this is not of our selves, nor by any Acquirement of our own; but is the free Gift of God (the Giver of all good things) which he has given us to believe in; and to him alone (not unto any thing of our selves) we ascribe the Glory and Honour, to whom it is due forever.

Now, forasmuch as all men have sinned, and fallen short of the Glory of God, it pleased God (out of his infinite Love and Compassion towards the Sons and Daughters of Men) to send his only begotten Son Christ Jesus a Light into the World, that all through him might be saved, and have Everlasting Life, who gave his Life a Ransom for all, that he might purchase them by his precious Blood; He is the Propitiation for our Sins, and not for our Sins only, but also for the Sins of the whole World, 1 *John* 2. 2. And as man comes to believe in his Name (which is his Power) he comes to know Reconciliation through his Death and Blood, and by it Redemption up unto God again: And the Everlasting Gospel (which is the great Power of God unto Salvation to all that believe in it, and obey the same) comes here to be witnessed, which is that Gospel which Christ commanded his Disciples to preach throughout the World to every Creature under Heaven, *Mark* 16. 15. And, If any man preach any other Gospel then that which is already preached and declared, let him be accursed, *Gal.* 1. 8. But if this Gospel

ſpel be hid, it is hid to them that are loſt, in whom the God of this World hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, leſt the Light of the glorious Goſpel of Chriſt, who is the Image of God ſhould ſhine unto them, 2 *Cor.* 4. 3, 4.

Now this Everlaſting Goſpel is preached again in the ſame Power and Demonſtration of the Spirit, as in times paſt, by virtue whereof Life and Immortality is again brought to Light; ſo that the Priſoner of Hope comes to receive the acceptable Tidings of Liberty and Freedom out of ſpiritual Bondage and Captivity.

And the Lord is ariſing and appearing in the Hearts and Conſciences of the Sons and Daughters of men by the bright ſhinings of the Beams of his Glory, to give unto them the Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God in the Face of Chriſt Jeſus, 2 *Corinth.* 4. 6.

Now, the Reaſon why people have been erring and wandring every one after their own Wayes, and in the dark Imaginations of their own Hearts is, for want of the Knowledge of the only true God, and Chriſt Jeſus whom he hath ſent (whom to know is Life Eternal) and the Reaſon why People come ſhort of this Knowledge is, becauſe they will not believe in, and yield Obedience unto the Light of Chriſt Jeſus, manifeſted in their Hearts, to give them the glorious Knowledge of the Lord, and of his Way of Life and Salvation, and to lead them from under Satan's power, who hath held people in Ignorance (through Unbelief) and hath kept them under the Region of the Shadow of Death: For Chriſt Jeſus,

who ſaid, *I am the Light of the World*; alſo ſaid, *Except ye believe that* I AM HE, *ye ſhall dye in your Sins, and whither I go ye cannot come.* So that Unbelief in the Light, was and is the Cauſe why people dye in their Sins, and come ſhort of the Knowledge of God and Jeſus Chriſt, whom to know is Life Eternal.

But Chriſt Jeſus, who is that Word that was in the Beginning, by which all things were made that were made, in whom was (and is) Life, and the Life was (and is) the Light of Men, *John* 1. 4. he is the true Light, that lighteth every man that cometh into the World, by which loſt man comes to ſee his Way to God again out of his miſerable Eſtate and undone Condition, where all Fleſh hath corrupted its way before the Immortal God; in which way of Corruption (by reaſon of Sin and Tranſgreſſion) there is none that doth good, no not one. And in this fallen Eſtate and deplorable Condition hath the Lord God beheld the Sons and Daughters of fallen *Adam*, and with an Eye of Pity and in the Bowels of Compaſſion hath he looked down from the Habitation of his Holineſs, and hath ſent forth the Son of his Love, who (by his Light and Grace) appears in the Hearts of all Mankind; his Light, and his Grace, and good Spirit, is univerſal, and freely extended unto all, that as they mind it, believe in it, and are obediene to it, they come to witneſs Salvation by it, according to the Teſtimony of the holy Apoſtle, *The Grace of God, that bringeth Salvation, hath appeared unto all men, teaching us, that denying Ungodlineſs and Worldly Luſts, we ſhould live ſoberly and godly, &c.* Titus 2. 11, 12.

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Now there is none excluded from the Appearance of this free Grace of God, nor any to be excuſed who receive it not, and reſiſt the Teachings of it: But as many as are obedient to the Teachings of it in their own Hearts, they come to witneſs Freedom and Liberty by it, and Power in it to reſiſt the Temptations and many Snares that be in the Ungodly World. And thoſe that hate the Reproofs of its Inſtruction (which is the Way of Life) and turn from it into Laſciviouſneſs and Vanity, they will find it to be their Condemnation; and thoſe are they that crucifie unto themſelves afreſh the Lord of Glory, and put him to open ſhame, and trample the Blood of the Covenant under foot, as a thing of no value: And here the Lamb lies ſlain in the Streets of the Ungodly World (ſpiritually called *Sodom* and *Ægypt*) that has got a place in man's Heart ſince the Fall. The Foundation of this wicked World, that is in Sin & Polution, that has ſo corrupted the Earth, and filled it with Violence, was laid by Tranſgreſſion, whereby Death came over all men. But as by the Diſobedience of one Man, All have ſinned, and fallen ſhort of the Glory of God; ſo by the Obedience of one Man (the Man Chriſt Jeſus) we come to be made alive again: And as the Creature comes to joyn with the Manifeſtation of the Light of Chriſt Jeſus (the free Gift of the Father's Love, who is full of Grace and Truth) they come to know and feel his quickening Spirit, which ſets free from the Law of Sin and Death: And keeping to the Light, which diſcovers all the Deeds of Darkneſs, they come to ſee their Way out of the old *Adam*, to Chriſt the ſecond *Adam*;

dam; and how to refuse the Evil, and chuse the Good, according as in the Light it is made manifest; for, as saith the Apostle, *All things that are reproved are made manifest by the Light; for whatsoever doth make manifest, is Light*, Ephes. 5. 13.

Now mind that in your own Hearts which reproveth in secret, when no mortal Eye sees, nor Ear hears the small still Voice, which calls unto you when you are running to do Evil, which grieves the Spirit of the Lord in you: Return, return, hearken unto the Voice of Wisdom; for she uttereth her Voice in the Streets of the World, and in the midst of the Concourse of the People, *How long ye simple ones will ye love Simplicity, and Scorners delight in their Scorning, and Fools hate Knowledge? Turn ye at my Reproofs, &c. Because I have called, and ye have refused; I have stretched forth my Hand, and none regarded; but ye have despised all my Counsel, and would none of my Reproof; I will also laugh at your Calamity, when your Fear cometh like a Desolation, and when Affliction and Anguish shall come upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but shall not find me; because they hated Knowledge, and did not chuse the Fear of the Lord: But whoso hearkeneth unto me, shall dwell safely*, Prov. 1. 22, 23, 24.

Here the Wise Man in the Wisdom of God shews what is to be turned from, and the Safety, Peace and Consolation of those that turn at the Reproofs, and hearken to the Voice of this pure Wisdom; as also, the Calamity and Distress of such as will not give ear to the Reproofs of Instruction (which, as one said, is the Way to Life) nor be obedient to the Measure

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of Light and Life in their Hearts, ſuch muſt reap the Fruit of their own Devices.

Job ſpeaking excellently and experimentally of this Wiſdom, ſaith on this wiſe; *Where is Wiſdom to be found? and where is the place of Underſtanding? Man knoweth not the Price thereof. The Depth ſaith, It is not in me; and the Sea ſaith, It is not in me: It cannot be gotten for Gold, neither ſhall Silver be weighed for the Price thereof. But* THE FEAR OF THE LORD *that is Wiſdom; and* TO DEPART FROM INIQUITY, *that is a good Underſtanding. Death and Deſtruction have heard of the Fame of wiſdom*; and many can talk of it; but they are Aliens to it, and their Hearts remote from it. Oh! the pure holy Fear of the Lord God, it keeps the Heart clean, it preſerveth out of all Evil, and delivers from the Snares of Death; it is a precious Pearl indeed, a matchleſs Jewel: Where is the Man that is furniſhed with Eloquence, to unfold the Excellency of this Wiſdom? or who knows the Worth of it? but thoſe who have digged and ſearched the Deep for it, and when they have found it, ſold all their Treaſure, that they have been heaping up in their Notional and Artificial Wiſdom, which is from below, and made a Purchaſe of this precious Treaſure and Riches, which endures forever; ſuch have made a bleſſed exchange, never to be repented of; the Thief cannot break through and ſteal, nor Moth corrupt, neither can Canker ruſt or eat this Treaſure. But this is not to be found or attained unto in the Path where the Lyons Whelp hath trodden (the fierce angry Nature) or the fierce Lyon has paſſed by; no Vulture's Eye nor

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Beaſt of Prey can walk therein. *And though the Lyons may ſuffer Hunger, yet thoſe that fear the Lord ſhall want no good thing* (a bleſſed Privilege indeed.) It was the Fear of the Lord that preſerved *Joſeph* in his tender Years, when he was in *Egypt*, and when the *Egyptian* Woman (his Miſtreſs) tempted him: *How can I* (ſaid he) *do this great Wickedneſs, and ſin againſt God?* Gen. 39. 9. The Dread and Fear of offending the Lord was before his Eyes, whereby he was preſerved out of that Snare. Oh that people would lay theſe things to heart! and conſider what they are a doing, and ſearch their Hearts in the Light and Fear of the Lord, and humble themſelves before him (to whom they muſt give a juſt and final Account of the Deeds done in the Body) that they may receive Mercy at his Hand, before the Door be ſhut, and there be none to open.

For ſaith the Lord by the Mouth of his holy Prophet *Iſaiah*, *Waſh you, make you clean, put away the Evil of your Doings from before mine Eyes, ceaſe to do Evil, learn to do well, then come and let us reaſon together; though your Sins were as Crimſon, they ſhall be made white as Snow; though they were red as Scarlet, they ſhall be as Wool: If ye be willing and obedient, ye ſhall eat the good of the Land; but if ye refuſe and be rebellious, ye ſhall be devoured with the Sword, &c.*

And the Son of God ſaith, *Come unto me all you that are weary and heavy laden* (with your Sins and Iniquities (and know not whither to go) *and I will give you Reſt.*

This is Glad Tidings of an Acceptable Reſt indeed, unto all who are weary with travelling in the

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By Wayes and Crooked Pathes, which lead to the Chambers of Death. And this Reſt remains for all the People of God, who have been willing to come unto Chriſt (by his Light in their own Hearts) and to bow to his Appearance.

And all you who are in want of this Reſt, and deſire the attainment of it, but are ignorant of the Way that leads to it, my Exhortation and Advice unto you is, to come unto him who ſaid, *Come unto me all you that are weary, &c.* of whom it was teſtified, *That when he ſhould come, he ſhould reprove the World of Sin, of Right ouſneſs and of Judgment*; and ceaſe from ſeeking and ſtriving in your own Wills (which is not according to the Will of God) and reſt from your own Labours (as God did from his) & mind that which diſcovers Sin, and reproves in ſecret for it, and turn at the Reproofs of it (which is the Way of Life) as one well experienced, and teſtified in his day; *The Commandment is a LAMP, and the Law is LIGHT, and the Reproofs of Inſtruction THE WAY OF LIFE*, Prov. 6. 23. This is that Lamp and that Light of which *David* teſtified, ſaying, *Thy Word is a Lamp unto my Feet, and a Light unto my Paths*, Pſalm 119. 105. He alſo ſaid, *The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the Soul*; and is that Word of which he ſaid, *Wherewithal ſhall a Young Man cleanſe his Wayes? by taking heed thereto, according to thy Word:* Which Word, Light, Law, Lamp, Grace, Spirit, &c. with many other Names and Denominations, are one and the ſame in nature and quality, though proceeding from the holy Spirit and Power in the holy Men of God under ſeveral Names and Appella-

lations, according to the various Effects, Diſpenſati-ons, Manifeſtations and Operations of it in their Hearts; as when it manifeſteth unto man the Evil of his Wayes, it is properly called *Light*; and as it judg-eth and condemneth for Sin and Evil, it may be cal-led a *Law-giver* and a *Judge*, &c. this is able to deliver and ſet free from the Power of Sin and Death, and to bring loſt man to God again: It was ſufficient under every Diſpenſation for the Recovery and Salvation of Mankind, as it was obeyed and believed in, by which the Righteous Seed and Holy Men of God found Ac-ceptance with the Lord, and knew *that they pleaſed him, and walked with him*, as *Enoch* did, and were made *perfect*, as *Abraham* was, to whom the Lord ſaid *Walk thou before me, and be thou perfect*, Gen. 17. 1.

But is now manifeſted in theſe latter days in a more Glorious and Evangelical Appearance, wherein the Lord has fulfilled his Promiſe of old, and is pouring forth of his Spirit upon all Fleſh, and is cauſing his Sons and his Daughters to propheſie, and to declare of his wondrous Works: and now Chriſt Jeſus is manife-ſting himſelf in his inward and ſpiritual Appearance of Light in the Hearts and Conſciences of all men, who *is come a Light into the World, that whoſoever be-lieves on him might not periſh, but have Everlaſting Life*; and in this Manifeſtation of his Spirit he is calling and inviting the Sons and Daughters of men, *Behold*, (ſays he) *I ſtand at the Door and knock*; *if any man hear my Voice, and open unto me, I will come in and ſup with him, and he with me*, Rev. 3. 20. *It is the Voice of my Beloved that knocks, ſaying, Open unto me; for my Head is filled with Dew; and my Locks with the Drops of the Night*,

Night, Song of Sol. 5. 2. The Disobedient and Rebellious will not entertain him in their Hearts; but he is pierced by their Iniquities, and as a Lamb slain without their Door, and as killed all the day long as to them (though in himself he lives to judge them) *He made his Grave with the Wicked, and with the Rich in his Death*, Isa. 53. 9. But the Lord beholds the Proud afar off, who think they know enough, and are fat and full, and want nothing, when they are miserable, and naked, and bare, and want all things; but the Humble he teacheth, and dwells with the Contrite in Heart; for it is in the Heart and Consciences of Men and Women where he ought to dwell, and it is his Prerogative to sway the Scepter there; although the old Usurper of Authority (called the *Devil* and *Satan*) by his Stratagems and Insinuations, has gotten a large Room and open Entertainment in the Hearts of the Children of Disobedience, so that the Inn is taken up with other Guests (the vain Delights and Pleasures of the World) and no room is left to entertain the Lord of Glory, but he is as laid in the Manger, and turned out of Doors, and his small Appearance sleighted and rejected by the Ungodly: But now is the Prince of Peace come, and is arising in his glorious Power, to dis-throne the grand Enemy of man's Happiness, and to discover his many Snares, Baits and Temptations, which he has laid suitable to the Propensity and Inclination of the Creature, to betray the Simple-minded, and to draw forth the Heart and Affections after his Inventions, thereby to enslave and imbondage the Creature in Sin and Iniquity, and to plunge it therein, until the Custom of it comes to take

away the ſenſe of the Evil of it, and then perſwades the poor Captive, *There is no Freedom from it, nor no Perfection to be attained on this ſide the Grave*; and here he labours to keep them under his Power whilſt in this Life, knowing that *after Death, Judgment comes*; and *as the Tree falls, ſo it lies*; and *that there is no Repentance in the Grave*; and here he obtains his End, which is the *Eternal* Deſtruction of Men and Womens Souls; for he laid the Foundation of his Kingdom in the Heart of Man and Woman by a Lye, through which Sin entred, and by which he upholds his Kingdom to this day in all the Diſobedient and Rebellious. But in the Light of Chriſt Jeſus (which diſcovers all the Deeds of Darkneſs) is he clearly ſeen, and his rotten Foundation, which was grounded upon a Lye, begins now to ſhake and reel, and the Down-fall of his Kingdom is now ſeen to approach by them whoſe Eyes the Lord has opened. But as for thoſe who deſpiſe this Inward and Evangelical Appearance of Light and Grace, and call it *Natural*, or *the Check of a Natural Conſcience, and a thing Inſufficient (though obeyed) to Salvation*; nay, many will not ſtick to call it *Diabolical*: whoever they be that are in this ſtate, I am bold to affirm and teſtifie, *That the ſame Power (call it what they will) that ſecretly checks and reproves for Sin and Evil in the Conſciences of Men and Women the ſame (in the Day of Account) ſhall ſet the Sins of the wicked and Diſobedient in order before their Eyes, and ſhall be their Judge in that Day, and as a Stone that ſhall grind them to Powder; and on the contrary, to thoſe that love it and obey it, will be the Joy, Comfort and Everlaſting Salvation of their Immortal Souls.*

Now

Now the Reason why people hate the Light, is very evident from Christ's own words, who saith, *This is the Condemnation, that Light is come into the World, and men love Darkness rather than Light*, because their Deeds are Evil; *for every one that doth Evil, hateth the Light, neither cometh to the Light, lest his Deeds should be reproved*, John 3. 19, 20. *But he that doth Truth, loves the Light, and brings his Deeds to it, that they may be proved and tryed that they are wrought in God.*

Now the Serpent in his Subtilty is the same at this day that he was in the Beginning, who in direct Opposition to the Command of God told *Adam* and *Eve That in the day they did eat of the Forbidden Fruit they should* Not *surely dye, but should be as Gods knowing Good and Evil*: and here was the Temptation laid under the presentation of an Higher Attainment, or that it was higher or of further Latitude, which certainly was more pernicious and Destructive; for, until the Temptation was entred into, they had not the Knowledge of Evil by participation, but were clothed with the Sweet Innocent Life of God, which he breathed into them, and dwelt in Covenant with their Maker. But after the Enemy had prevailed, and had subjected the Creature unto Vanity (as saith the Apostle, *Romans* 8. [vers. 20.) not willingly, but in Hope of an Higher Attainment, or Better State than that wherein the Lord had placed them, they were betrayed, and lost their Habitation by breaking the Command of God, and lost the Heavenly Dignity and Excellency of the first Creation, and became dead as to that sweet Unity, Fellowship and Access they had unto God: and here the Serpent was found a Lyar, who told them,

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They ſhould not ſurely dye, &c. So here Man and Woman were drove out of the Paradiſe of God, and became degenerate Plants of a ſtrange Vine, branching forth it ſelf into many Corrupt Trees, whoſe Fruit have been *Envy, Wrath, Murder* and *Perſecution about Religion, Sacrifice and Worſhip, Pride, Emulation, Deceit* and *Hypocriſie*; and in theſe evil Branches have the unclean Birds and the Fowls of the Air lodged, and the Cockatrice, that comes out of the Serpent's Root, whoſe Fruit (ſaith the Prophet) *ſhall be a Fiery Flying Serpent*, Iſa. 14. 29.

Now the Cockatrice hath been hatching and bringing forth her Cage of unclean Birds by the power of the Serpent, whereby they are become Birds of Prey, to the perſecuting of the Innocent Birth or good Seed of the Kingdom, and quenching the good Deſires which are in the Hearts of People. But as the firſt Appearance or Motion to Evil is reſiſted and turned from, the Conception thereof is prevented in the Heart (for 'tis there that Sin is conceived, before 'tis brought forth into action) and the Cockatrice comes to be cruſhed in the Egg, before it is brought forth to be a Bird of Prey, and the Creature preſerved out of the Snare. And ſo it may be ſeen, that this Crooked Serpent has been the ground Cauſe of all the Wo and Miſery that is come upon Mankind, who ſeeks to betray and deceive the Innocent, as he did *Adam* and *Eve*, who actually knew no Evil, until under a fair Pretence he preſented the forbidden fruit unto *Eve* (the weaker Veſſel) who by hearkening unto him did eat, and gave alſo to her Husband, and ſo brought Death over themſelves, according as the Lord God had ſaid,

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In the day that ye eat thereof, ye ſhall dye. Thus by tranſgreſſing the Righteous Law of God, in eating the forbidden Fruit, Sin entred, and Death by Sin, which is come upon all, and all have fallen ſhort of the Glory of God. And they that are feeding of the Tree of Knowledge without Life, are under the ſame Sentence of Death, which was paſſed over *Adam* and *Eve*, through their Diſobedience. So Death reigned from *Adam* to *Moſes*, *even over them who had not ſinned after the ſimilitude of* Adam's *Tranſgreſſion*, as ſaith the Apoſtle: *For as by the Offence of one, Judgment came upon all men to Condemnation; even ſo by the Righteouſneſs of one, the free Gift came upon all unto Juſtification of Life*, Rom. 5. 18. And as many as receive the free Gift of Grace and Righteouſneſs, ſhall reign in Life by Jeſus Chriſt.

And in this free Gift of God (in which is Life eternal) comes Man and Woman to inherit their former Priviledge and Right to the Tree of Life again: for the univerſal Loving-kindneſs of the Lord God was ſuch towards the Noble Workmanſhip of his Hands, that notwithſtanding Man and Woman had tranſgreſſed the holy righteous Law of the Lord, and being firſt violated by the Woman, yet he promiſed, *That the Seed of the Woman ſhould bruiſe the Serpent's Head*; and to the Serpent he ſaid, *I will put Enmity between thee and the Woman, and between thy Seed and her Seed; it ſhall bruiſe thy Head, and thou ſhalt bruiſe his Heel*, Gen. 3. 15.

This faithful Promiſe, in which the Patriarchs of old, with the Prophets and Holy Men of God believed, in the Fulneſs of time came to be fulfilled, and the Virgin conceived by the Holy Ghoſt, and by the Over-

Overshadowing of the Power of the Most High, and brought forth that Holy Thing whose Name was called *Jesus*, according as the Angel of the Lord had fore-told unto *Mary*, saying, *Blessed art thou among Women, thou hast found Favour with God; for lo, thou shalt conceive in thy Womb, and bear a Son, and shalt call his Name* Jesus. Now *Mary* reasoned a little, saying, *How can this be, seeing I know not Man?* To whom the Angels Answer was, *The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the Power of the Most High shall overshadow thee; therefore that Holy Thing that shall be born of thee, shall be called the Son of God.* So *Mary* consulted no more, but believing the Angel, said, *Be it unto me according to thy word*, Luke 1. 35. And in the overcoming Sense of the Joy which through Faith she had received, said on this wise, *My Soul doth magnifie the Lord, and my Spirit rejoyceth in God my Saviour; from henceforth all Generations shall call me blessed, because he that is mighty has done great things for me, and Holy is his Name.* So in the Seed Christ Jesus, the second *Adam*, that never fell, who is made a quickening Spirit, comes the Blessing again to be obtained, and all those that believe in him come to be redeemed from under the Curse, and to know his Spirit as a Standard lifted up in them, to the crushing and breaking down the Head of the Serpent (which is his Power) so that the Enmity that is put between the two Seeds shall never be reconciled; and as this Seed of Life, which the good Seedsman has sown in every Heart, comes to take root and grow, it will suppress and keep under the Evil Seed of the Serpent, which brings forth Bryars and Thorns, to entangle the Soul as in a Net, whose End is to be burnt up and

consumed by the Breath of the Lord. And although the Enemy has come in the Night, and hath sown Tares and Brambles in the Field (which is the World) where the good Seed was sown, yet mark, *their End is to be cut down at the time of Harvest (which is the end of the World) and to be bundled up, and cast into the Fire unquenchable.* Oh! what will become of all those in that day, who have suffered the Tares and Brambles to grow, & have not believed nor put Confidence in, but obstinately resisted the *appearance* of Christ, the benefit of whose Sufferings, Death, Resurrection and Assention such might have received, and have been cleansed from all their evil Wayes and corrupt Devices by Christ Jesus, who *is come a Light into the World, that whosoever believes in him, should not abide in Darkness, but have the Light of Life*, John 8. 12. he testified of himself, saying, *I am the Resurrection and the Life; he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:* this is he to whom all the ends of the Earth are to look for Salvation; he is the *Shiloh*, the *peaceable Saviour*, who is now come according to *Jacob*'s Prophecy upon his dying Bed, saying, *The Scepter shall not depart from* Judah,, *nor a Law-giver from between his Feet, until* Shiloh *come, and unto him shall the gathering of the People be*, Gen 49. 10. (which Scepter of Government is long since departed from *Judah*, therefore *Shiloh* is come) Now the spiritual Scepter is deliver'd unto him, who, without Respect of Persons, is holding it forth unto all Nations, Kindreds, Tongues and People, that his Government may be set up, and his Scepter sway in their Hearts, *whose Kingdom is an Everlasting Kingdom, and of his Dominion there shall be no End*; upon whose

Shoulders the Government is set, and the Nations of them that are saved must walk in the Light of the Lamb, who is come to take away the sins of the world, & has brought a Remnant (through their Belief in and Obedience unto the Light of Christ) to the knowledge of his saving Power, which brings out of the dead Forms to the living Substance, which gives true Satisfaction to the Soul: And such cannot but say unto and invite all, who hunger and thirst after Righteousness, *To come and taste with us, and see how good the Lord is; for it is that which was from the Beginning, which we have seen with our Eyes, which we have looked upon, and our Hands have handled of the Word of Life, that we declare unto you, that you also might have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ*, John 1. 3. *And the Spirit and the Bride saith Come, and let him that heareth say Come, and he that is athirst let him come, and take of the Waters of Life freely*, Rev. 22. 17. Oh! why will you spend your Money for that which is not Bread, and your Labour for that which doth not satisfie your Souls, who with the Prodigal have spent your Portion, and are feeding upon the Husks in your Notional Self-Performances, and Imitations of true Religion, Sacrifice and Worship? But alas! it is not the Profession, Shew or Likeness of these things (without the Possession of that Life and Power in which they are accepted of the Lord) that will stand in stead in the needful time; for 'tis not a sight or shew of Food that will satisfie an hungry or travelling Man; but *Give me Bread* (sayes the hungry Soul) *or else I dye* — Oh! how doth my Spirit mourn for those who are seeking living Bread among the

Husks

Husks, where its not to be found, and are inquiring after their Souls Beloved, and are running from one Watchman to another, seeking the Footsteps of the Flock of his Companions, and where he feeds them, and causes them to lie down at noon day. Come you that have been enquiring of the blind Watchmen of the Night, I will tell you where we have found the Beloved of our Souls (where you also must find him) The Spouse of old sought him amongst the Watchmen, yet found him not; *But*, sayes she, *when I had past a little from them, then I found him whom my Soul loved*: Such was our inquiring Condition amongst the blind *Watchmen of the Night*, who cryed, *Lo here* and *Lo there*, whose Trumpet gave an uncertain sound unto us, and instead of Relief caused our Wounds to bleed afresh, telling us, *Revelation was ceased and we must not expect God & Christ in that inward and spiritual Appearance wherein he made known himself to his People in dayes past; but we must apply our selves to this outward Ceremony, and the other Ordinance, &c.* and thus they smote us and wounded us: But blessed be our God forever, who turned us from them, to the Light of Christ Jesus, which gave us the knowledge of our Beloved, and directed our Feet into the right Way, even the Just Man's Path, which is a shining Light, and shines more and more unto the perfect day, & the Wayfaring Man (though a Fool) shall not err therein. So it was by the inshinings of his Light & Grace in our Hearts, that we received the Discovery and Knowledge of our Beloved, who is become the chiefest of ten thousand unto a Remnant, as he was to the Spouse of old: He is the Door into the Sheepfold, and the true Shepherd, who laid down his Life for his

Sheep; and whoever enters into this heavenly Fold of Reſt and Peace, muſt enter in by his Light, who is the Door; for *whoever climb up any other way, are Thieves and Robbers*; and his Sheep hear his Voice, and the Voice of a Stranger they will not follow, becauſe they can clearly diſtinguiſh between the true Shepherd and the falſe Shepherds (who whilſt people put into their Mouthes cry *Peace, Peace*; and when not fed, prepare War againſt them) witneſs the many grievous Sufferings of Innocent People in Body & Eſtate; how many naſty Goals have been crouded full by their Cruelty? how many Wives have been made Widows and Children Fatherleſs (whoſe Cryes have pierced the Heavens, and whoſe Complaint has entred the Ears of the Lord) by their *unrighteouſneſs & inhuman dealings with God's people*: And how have theſe Idol Shepherds, who have ſought the Fleece, and not regarded the Sheep, like Wolves and Bears, rended the Goods of ſuch as could not put into their Mouthes, the impartial Reader and every unbyaſs'd Mind can well inform. But the great and powerful Shepherd, the mighty God, hath taken Cognizance of theſe things, and will ſurely call them to account, and reckon with them in a Day that is come & coming upon them, wherein they ſhall be more and more made manifeſt, that they are not ſent of God, nor true Miniſters of Chriſt, becauſe they abide not in his Doctrine, who ſaid, *Freely ye have received, freely give*: and if any ſhall ask, *How we know them?* we need go no further then the words of Chriſt, who ſaid, *By their Fruits ye ſhall know them*; for they are ſuch who *ſeek their Gain from their Quarter, who feed with the Fat and clothe with the Wool, and love the upper-*

moſt

moſt Rooms at Feaſts, and Greetings in the Market-place, with divers other Marks, whereby we know them to be ſuch as ran and God never ſent them, and their Doctrine to be erroneous and unprofitable. But the Sheep of Chriſt's Paſture are clothed with the Lamb-like, Meek, Quiet and Suffering Spirit of Jeſus, who makes his Followers conformable unto himſelf, that in all things we may be found followers of him in his Light and Grace, who hath other Sheep which are not of this Fold, whom alſo he ſaid ſhould be brought in, that they may hear his Voice; *and there ſhall be one Sheepfold and one Shepherd,* John 10. 16. And for thoſe Sheep who are not yet gathered into this Fold, doth my Soul travail, that they with us might partake of the living Bread, which comes down from Heaven. *I am that living Bread* (ſaith Chriſt) *that came down from Heaven. My Fleſh is Meat indeed, and my Blood is Drink indeed; whoever eats of the Bread and drinks of the Water that I give, ſhall never hunger nor thirſt any more: Except ye eat my Fleſh and drink my Blood, ye have no Life in you.* This was an hard Saying to the profeſſing *Jews*, whoſe Eye was outward and carnal; as it is with many this day, who make a great talk of his Fleſh and Blood: But except you have Faith in his Name, and by virtue of that Faith come to eat his Fleſh and drink his Blood, ye have no Life in you; for, ſayes he, (who ſaid, *I am the Light*) *Except ye believe that I am he, ye ſhall dye in your Sins, and whither I go ye cannot come.* So that it is Unbelief in his Light or Grace in people which diſappoints them of the benefit of his Blood, which cleanſeth, waſhes and ſanctifies all thoſe that believe in his Name and Power, by which, as they keep unto and abide in it, they come to witneſs their Redeemer to live,

even

even Christ, the Anointed of God, the Everlasting Minister of the Sanctuary, and of the true Tabernacle, which God hath pitched, and not Man; he is become our High Priest, and the Bishop of our Souls; he is teaching his People himself; and our Invitation unto all is, that they may come and sit down under the Teachings of his Spirit and Grace in themselves; *For, whatsoever may be known of God is manifest within*; and he hath shewn unto Man what is good, that he should obey it and do it; and the Apostle said, *Examine your selves, prove your selves; know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be Reprobates.* Now thou who hast had thine Eye outward, & hast bin running abroad, and spent thy Portion with the Prodigal, and hast not obtained an Establishment in that which is durable and satisfying the Soul; Return, return to thy Father's House, and turn thy Mind inward to that which thou hast run from, and hast been seeking without thee, and thou wilt find virtue in it, and the Efficacy of it to satisfie thy breathing Soul: for, remember the Parable of the Woman, who sought her piece of Silver without her House, but turning within, lighting a Candle, and sweeping her House, she found it, and for the Joy that she had found this Treasure, invited her Neighbours to come and rejoyce with her. Now the Candle of the Lord (which is the Spirit of a Man) is lighted, and the Houses of many are swept, and that which they have been seeking without they have found within them, to the exceeding great Joy & Gladness of their Hearts, so that they could not but invite and perswade others (through the constraining Virtue and Soul-satisfaction they had receiv'd from it)

it) to turn in to that inward Word of Power which is nigh, in the Heart, and is a ſure Word of Prophecy, *unto which* (ſayes the Apoſtle *Peter*) *ye do well to take heed, as unto a Light ſhining in a dark place, until the Day dawn, and the Day Star ariſe in your Hearts*, 2 Pet. 1. 19.

Now we having taken heed unto this divine and heavenly Word in our Hearts, we are come to ſee the ariſing of the Star of *Jacob*, and to the bright and morning Star, by which the bleſſed Day of God's great Salvation is known and experimentally witneſſed by a Remnant. Oh! how glorious is the appearance & breaking forth of this heavenly Day, in which the riſing of the Son of Righteouſneſs (who is riſen with Healing under his Wings) many are come to behold; how excellent is the Power, Wiſdom and Majeſty of him who is greater than *Solomon*, whoſe marvellous Order, Magnificency and Splendor the Queen of *Sheba*, from the uttermoſt parts of the Earth, came to ſee, who when ſhe had heard and ſeen all that ſhe deſired (yea to her Aſtoniſhment) made this acknowledgment, *I believed not this Report, until I had ſeen it with mine Eyes; but lo, the one half was not told me; for thou haſt more Wiſdom and Proſperity than I have heard by Report*, 1 Kings 10. 7. And many can now ſay, that a *Greater* than *Solomon* is now come, whoſe infinite Wiſdom and Power, whoſe excellent Glory and Majeſty the Tongues of Men and Angels are incapable and inſufficient to ſet forth, who is filling his latter Houſe with the Splendor of his own Glory, far tranſcending and ſurpaſſing the Glory of the Outward Temple, which was typical & figurative of that which is not built with Hands; and many Sons are coming from

from far, and Daughters from the ends of the Earth, to behold the Beauty and Comlineſs and Holy Order of the Houſe of the God of *Jacob*, which he is eſtabliſhing atop of all the exalted Mountains and Profeſſions without Poſſeſſion, and above all ſwelling Notions and Hills, and Nations are flowing unto it, according as the Lord ſpake by the Mouth of the Prophet, *Iſa.*2.2. *Beautiful for Seituation is Mount* Sion (the Hill of God) and it is now fulfilled in theſe latter days, that many are come to ſay, *Let us goup to the Mountain of the Lord, and to the Houſe of the God of* Jacob, *and he will teach us of his Wayes, and we will walk in his Pathes.* Theſe are the true *Jews* in Spirit, the Circumciſed in Heart & Ear, whoſe Praiſe is of God, and not of men: ſuch are the true Worſhippers, who worſhip the Father in the Spirit and in the Truth, which is that living, true and ſtanding Worſhip) ſet up and eſtabliſhed above ſixteen hundred years ago, by our Lord and Saviour, in that bleſſed Conference held with the *woman* of *Samaria* at *Jacob*'s Well, who hearing of the Diſputes & various Opinions about the Place where men ought to worſhip, ſaid, *Woman, believe me, The Hour cometh when ye ſhall neither in this Mountain nor at* Jeruſalem *worſhip the Father; for the Hour cometh and now is, th t the true Worſhippers ſhall worſhip the Father in Spirit and Truth; and ſuch is the Father ſeeking to worſhip him,* *John* 4. 21, 23. This Woman, by this Converſe with Chriſt, being converted to the Faith in him, went her way into the City, and gave this Teſtimony of him, *Come ſee a Man* (ſays ſhe) *that has told me all that ever I have done; is not this the Chriſt?* And many of the *Samaritans* believ'd on him, not only becauſe of the ſaying of the

the Woman, who told them, *That he had told her all that ever she had done*, but because of his own Word: *And we know* (say they) *that this is indeed the Christ.* Now these men were directed unto Christ by the Declaration or Preaching of a Woman, who was not despised by them because of her Sex, but they received her Invitation, & came to be made Believers in him, who had told the Woman all that she had done; and well were it for the People of this Nation if they would be of the *Samaritans* Mind, and believe in that inward Testimony and Power, which lets them see and tells them all that they do, and reproves them for Sin and Evil. Now, God is a Spirit, and they that worship him aright, must worship him in & by the divine Assistance of his Spirit; but those who deride and make a Mock at the Spirit, and the Guidings and Leadings of it, are known to be out of the Spirit, neither know the Truth, but are Enemies to it; and all their Worships, Duties, Self-Performances, Offerings & Sacrifices out of the Truth, are an Abomination unto the Lord, let their Pretence be never so specious: Now *God in his Love hath given a Measure of his Spirit unto* All *people, whereby* (*through Obedience thereto*) *they may be enabled to perform that acceptable Service he requires of them*: and they that come to feel such a good Desire and holy Thirst begotten in them (as did the Woman of *Samaria*) after the Water of Life, such by pursuance after the same in the Faith, come to receive Satisfaction and Refreshment from the Fountain Christ Jesus, who said unto the Woman, *If thou knew'st the Gift of God, and who it is that saith unto thee* [*Give me to drink*] *thou wouldst have asked of him, who would have given thee living Water: those*

(ſaid he) *that drink of this water* (ſpeaking of the Water in *Jacob's* Well) *ſhall thirſt again; but whoſoever ſhall drink of the Water that I ſhall give him, ſhall never thirſt; but the Water that I ſhall give him, ſhall be in him a Well of water ſpringing up unto Everlaſting Life.* The Woman ſaid unto him, *Sir, give me of this water, that I thirſt not again, &c.* So it appears this Woman was ignorant of the Gift of God, though it was in her; yet by believing in and receiving his gracious Words, ſhe became acquainted with the true Knowledge of the Gift of God in her ſelf (as are all true Believers and ſpiritual Worſhippers at this day) and thereby to receive the ingrafted Word with Meekneſs, which is able to ſave the Soul, in and through which the true Worſhippers offer up an acceptable Sacrifice within the Gates of the New and Heavenly *Jeruſalem*, which *John* ſaw *coming down from God out of Heaven, as a Bride adorned for her Husband; Salvation is the Walls of this holy City, and her Gates Praiſes; neither in her is there need of the Light of the Sun, or of the Moon or Stars, but the Lord God and the Lamb is the Light thereof; and the Nations of them that are ſaved muſt walk in the Light of it*, Rev. 21. 23, 24.

Now we, who are come to witneſs this deſirable and glorious Habitation of Reſt and Peace (which through many deep Sufferings, Cryes and Travails of our anxious Spirits we have mourned for, ſought after and obtained) we cannot but declare unto others in the Love of God, with tender Pity and Compaſſion unto their Souls, who are toſſed about with every Wind of Doctrine (as a Ship in a ſtorm) and even labour to perſwade ſuch, who are thus diſtreſſed, to lay hold

on

on the great Salvation of God, which he in and by his Son Christ Jesus, has freely tendred unto all People, to be his Salvation to the Ends of the Earth, *a Light to lighten the* Gentiles, *and to be the Glory of his People* Israel; this is he whom good old *Simeon* saw in his day, when he was waiting for the Consolation of *Israel*, *Luke* 2. 25.

And you who are looking for Christ without you, in the outward Forms and Traditions, my Advice unto you is, To turn to that Principle in your own hearts that is meek and lowly; for sayes Christ, *Learn of me, I am meek and low in heart, and ye shall find Rest unto your Souls*, Mat. 11. 29. *The Humble he teacheth his Way, and the Meek will he guide in Judgment*: This is the good Physician of Value, who hath brought Balm from *Gilead*, and gives Health to the wounded Soul; he washes and thoroughly cleanses the Wound; & when all that has poluted and defiled the Heart and Conscience is purged and done away, then he pours in of his precious Oyntment, which gives a fragrant smell to those who have been poluted and defiled by reason of Sin, of which the Oyntment was a Figure, that was poured upon *Aaron*'s Head, and run down to the Skirts of his Garment, and was precious: and if that was precious which was outward and typical, how much more is this which is an inward and spiritual Unction (which only can reach the Soul, as that did the Body) and which comes from Christ, who is anointed with the heavenly Oyl above his Fellows, by vertue of which inward Anointing Health & Soundness of heart and mind comes to be known again by those who through this Universal Grace receive it; a measure of

which Grace is committed to every one to profit withal, if they would prove it and try it, it is one and the ſame in Nature and Quality, though not in Quantity; *For unto one he gave five Talents, to another two, and to another one, and to every man according to their ſeveral Abilities*, in the leaſt of which is ſufficientcy (if obey'd and improv'd) *and where much is given, much is required*: But the wicked and ſloathful Servant, who had but one Talent, counted the Lord an *hard Maſter*, becauſe he was negligent and careleſs to improve it, and hid his Talent in the Earth; but read his Portion; was he not *caſt into utter Darkneſs, where is weeping and gnaſhing of Teeth*? and the ſame Reward to this day remains for all the Negligent, Unfaithful and Diſobedient Servants, who will not improve their Gift and Talent committed unto them.

Now, to ſpeak a little after the manner of men, and to compare Spiritual Things with Temporal; That as no Malady or Diſtemper of the Body can be healed without the Application of ſome ſuitable Medicine, and that only ſuch as can reach unto the grieved part; even ſo no viſible Preparatory or outward Exiſtence, can reach unto, or effectually heal a Wounded Soul, but the alone ſaving Health and Power of Jeſus; and whoſo makes a right Application of it, comes livingly & experimentally to witneſs the bleſſed Effects thereof, which are the ſame as in the dayes paſt, that is, to give Sight to the Blind, to cauſe the Deaf to hear, the Lame to walk, the Leper to be cleanſed, and the Tongue of the Dumb to be unlooſed, to praiſe the Name of the Lord, and to magnifie his great Power in the Land of the Living; and the Poor in Spirit have re-

received the Everlasting Gospel of Peace, which is freely preached, and Life and Immortality is brought to Light thereby—Oh! the Day of Glad Tidings is come, and the Year of *Jubile* to the Prisoner of Hope, and to the Captives and Disconsolate Souls is known, who had no Comforter in the Earth, nor any to be found that had the Tongue of the Learned, to speak a word in season in the needful time.

But now has the Lord appear'd to comfort the *Mourners in Sion, and to give Beauty for Ashes, the Oyl of Joy for Mourning, and the Garment of Praises for the spirit of Heaviness,* Isa. 61. 3. Therefore lift up your Heads, ye mournful Travailers, *who have been weeping as* Rachel *for her Children, and refused to be comforted because they were not,* Jer. 31. 15. For the Comforter is now come, even the Spirit of Truth, which leads into all Truth all those that are willing to follow him, who saith, *I am come that you might have Life, and that you might have it more abundantly,* John 10. 10. and he will lead you by a Way you know not, where you shall not Err.

Life from God, the Fountain of Life and Glory, is now come, and is entered into the Witnesses; the Graves are opened, the Dead is raised, and they that hear his heavenly Voice, their Souls live unto him: This is the new Birth, which the Apostle speaks of on this wise, *My little Children, of whom I travail in Birth again until Christ be formed in you,* Galat. 4. 19. Here the Apostle travailed for the bringing forth of that holy Birth which is conceived by the holy Ghost, and is born of the Water and of the Spirit, and is made a new Creature in Christ; for (sayes he) *If any man be*

be in Christ, he is a New Creature: But *Nicodemus* (a Ruler of the *Jews*) who came unto Jesus by Night, reasoned carnally on this manner, *How can a Man be born which is Old; can he enter again into his Mother's Womb and be born?* How ignorant was this Teacher of *Israel* concerning the Work of Regeneration? it was a sealed Book and a Mystery unto him, as it is to many Wise Professors and Night-walking *Nicodemus*'s of this Age, who though they pretend to high things, yet stumble at that which should open their Understandings, and give them a true Discerning betwixt that which is born of the Flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit; but are yet in the dark, and their Understandings vailed by reason of Sin and Transgression, which stands as a Partition Wall unremoved, and the old man with his Deeds not put off, nor the new man (the second *Adam*) put on, which bears the heavenly Image; and being gone astray and alienated from the Life of God in themselves, they become not acquainted with that which should work a Change in their Hearts, notwithstanding all their Profession of God and Christ in Words, whilst in their Works they deny him. Now the birth of the flesh is known by its fruits, which is Envy, Wrath, Murder and Persecution of that Birth that is born after the Spirit, & hath been so even from Righteous *Abel* to this very day; for *Cain*, who was the first that was born of a Woman, envyed his Brother *Abel*, and slew him (because his Brother's Sacrifice was accepted, and his rejected) whose innocent Blood, from the Ground on which it was spilt, cryed in the Ears of the Lord for Vengeance, as doth the Blood of the Innocent Lea, le of God this day cry unto him,

him, who will render Judgment and Vegeance upon the Enemies of his Righteous Seed and People, who have ſacrificed unto and worſhipped the Lord their God, according to his Commands, and the Requirings of his holy Spirit in their Hearts.

And *Iſhmael* the Son of the Bond Woman (who was born after the Fleſh, and is in Bondage with her Children) he was a Mocker, and Mocked *Iſaac*, who was the true Seed and Heir of the Promiſe; ſo all thoſe now, who are of *Abraham*'s Faith, are of the true Seed, and inherit the Bleſſing and Kingdom prepared for them before the Foundation of the World.

And again, you may read how *Eſau* (the firſt birth) who was a prophane man, and ſold his Birth-right for one Morſel of Meat, he ſet himſelf againſt *Jacob* (the ſecond Birth) who was of the true Seed and righteous Line, unto which the Promiſe and Bleſſings did deſcend and appertain.

So here people may ſee, how that after man had tranſgreſſed and forſaken the Lord, he fell ſhort of the *Bleſſings of God*, and in that ſtate the firſt birth, which was of the Earth, earthly and ſenſual, was rejected with its Offerings and Sacrifice; ſo it is the ſecond birth, which is after the Spirit, that obtains the Bleſſing.

And *Haman*, an Informer againſt *Mordecai*, was of this corrupt ſeed & birth of the fleſh, whoſe Off-ſpring as well as himſelf has been perſecuting the Members of the true Church & Seed of God for theſe many hundred years unto this very time, and all about Religion, Sacrifice and Worſhip: ſo that our Perſecutors, who have been rending and tearing (like Dogs and Bears) and perſecuting people for their Non-conformity and

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different Perſwaſions about Religion, may ſee their Off ſpring, and who was their Captain and General in this wicked Work, whoſe Spirit is alive though his Body be dead; and it will deceive them in the end: And Wo and Miſery will be the Portion of all ſuch (if not prevented by timely Repentance) at unawares, when 'twill be too late to call unto the Hills and to the Mountains to fall upon them and cover them from the Preſence of the Lord, and to hide them from his dreadful Majeſty and fierce Indignation, which is kindled againſt all the Enemies of his choſen People, who are unto him as the Apple of his Eye; and no Way will be found to eſcape his *terrible Judgments*: For *ſuch as every one ſows, ſuch muſt they reap; and they that ſow to the fleſh, ſhall of the fleſh reap Corruption; but they that ſow to the ſpirit, ſhall of the ſpirit reap Life Everlaſting*, Gal. 6. 8. And if they who are and perſiſt in *Cain*'s nature and *Eſau*'s ſpirit, ſeek a place of Repentance with Tears, as they did, they ſhall not find it, but ſhall be like *Cain*, who was a Fugative and a Vagabond in the Earth, being driven out from the Preſence of the Lord, and ſaid, *My Puniſhment is greater than I can bear*.

Oh! that people would but conſider what they are a doing, and to whom they yield their Members Servants to obey, and follow that Exhortation of the Apoſtle, Rom. 6. 13. *Yield not your Members as Inſtruments of Unrighteouſneſs unto ſin, but yield your ſelves unto God; for the Wages of Sin is Death, but the Gift of God is Eternal Life.* Now this Gift of God is freely extended unto all Mankind, in and by which he calls and excites to Purity and Holineſs, and to turn to him, and forſake Sin, which makes the Separation, and to come out of Ungodlineſs and all Uncleanneſs. The

The Call of the Lord has reached unto all; but the Apostle saith, *Have they not all heard? yes verily; their sound went into all the Earth, and their words to the end of the World*, Rom. 10. 18. but all have not obeyed the Voice of the Lord. Oh! why will ye stand idle in the Market-place, pleading for and contending about outward Observations, Dayes and Times, and who shall have the greatest Wages, as did those whom Christ called into the Vineyard, who gives Liberally without upbraiding a Reward answerable to every ones Desert; he is just and righteous in giving true Measure and full Weight, and will reckon truly with every one, and will bring all thy Deeds and Actions into thy Remembrance: If his Witness in thy Conscience justifie thee, then may'st thou with Courage, Boldness and Joy appear before him; but if it condemn thee, then God is greater, who will in no wise hold thee guiltless in his sight. And the sluggish, idle and negligent Servants shall be clothed with the Rags of old *Adam*, and their Nakedness and Poverty will appear unto all: For when *Adam* and *Eve* had sinned, they saw their Nakedness (and not before) for then they were naked and strip'd of that Garment and Covering of Innocency, wherewith the Lord had clothed them at the first; and then they went to work, and made for themselves Coverings of Fig-leaves, which was but a mean Covering, instead of the Garments of Innocency and Holiness, which the Lord had put upon them.

And how insident is it unto fallen Man and Woman to make Unrighteous Coverings for Sin, and (as *Adam* after Transgression did) to hide themselves under the Thickets and Shades of Excuses and Pretences: But

the Lord will rip off all such Coverings and Pretences; and Wo from him is pronounced against *such as are covered and not with his Spirit, that they may add Sin unto Sin*, Isa. 30. 1.

But now is the Everlasting Comforter come, the Spirit of Truth, which leads the Believers and the Obedient into all Truth, of whom it is written on this wise, (as a signal Token, and to give full Assurance, that it is he who was promised) *when he is come, he will reprove the World of Sin, of Righteousness and of Judgment: of Sin, because they believe not in me; of Righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of Judgment, because the Prince of this World is judged*, John 16. 8, 9, 10, 11.

Therefore arise, stand up and make haste, you who have been idle, and come into the Vineyard and Work of the Lord, who gives Light unto all, whereby they may see what is the Work of the Day, and what is required of them; for when the Night comes, no man can work for God: Therefore follow Christ, the Anointed of God, who is given for a Leader and a Commander unto the People, who is Jesus, the Peaceable Saviour, who leads his People out of, and saves them from their Sins; he has been sleighted, despised and set at nought by the Wise Master Builders; but unto a Remnant is he become the Head Stone of the Corner, Chosen of God, Elect and Precious unto all those who have received him and believed on him. He is that Stone which *Daniel* saw cut out of the Mountain without Hands, and is now growing great, and shall fill the whole Earth, and is striking at the Feet of the great Image and Images,; and the power of the Dragon,

Dragon, Beast & False Prophet is coming down apace; and *Mystery Babylon*, the Great Whore and Mother of Harlots, is now discovered, who has ridden upon the Beast (which by his power has defended her) and has made the Nations drunk with the Wine of her Fornication, which she has held forth in her Golden Cup, who hath this Inscription written in her Fore-head, *Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth*, Rev. 17. 5. This Whore (the False Church) has gone a Whoring from the Life and Power of God, and from Christ Jesus the Ground and Pillar of Truth, which was that Rock upon which the Apostles and primitive Church of God was built. And this false Church is that great Whore which *John* saw sit upon the Waters (which are *Nations, Multitudes, Tongues and People*; who are not mis-parallel'd to Waters, because through the drinking of the Whore's Cup, they are become unstable and wavering in their Minds and Judgments) and hence did arise Confusion, like a troubled Sea, and great Combustions, which ended in Bloodshed and Murder; and the Beast upon which *John* saw the Woman sit, *became Scarlet-coloured*; and he saw the Woman *drunk with the Blood of the Saints, and with the Blood of the Martyrs of Jesus*, that has been shed from Age to Age, and cryes in the Ears of the Lord for Vengeance, *who will judge and avenge the Righteous Cause of the Faithful Followers of the Lamb, with whom the Dragon, Beast and False Prophet have made War, because they have kept the Commandments of God, and have the Testimony of Jesus: But they overcame by the Blood of the Lamb, and by the Word of their Testimony; and they loved not their Lives unto Death: These are they who are not defiled with Women, but have*

come through great Tribulation, and have made white their Garments in the Blood of Jesus : And we know the Lamb shall have the Victory: And *he will overturn, & overturn, until he come to reign whose Right it is ; whose Kingdom is an Everlasting Kingdom, and whose Dominion endures throughout all Generations ; and the Kingdoms of this World shall become the Kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall Reign forever and ever,* Rev. 11. 15.

And Desolation and sudden Destruction is coming upon *Babylon* (the great City of Confusion) *and all her Inhabitants and Merchants, who have enriched themselves by trading in her Wares and with her Costliness, shall weep and wail because no man buyeth them any more ; and they shall stand afar off for fear of her Torment, and cast Dust on their Heads, and say, Alas, alas ! the Great City, wherein were made Rich all that had Ships on the Sea by her Costliness ; for in one Hour she is made desolate,* Rev. 18. 15, 19. And the Lord will dry up the Tongue of the *Ægyptian Sea* ; and all the goodly Buildings and pleasant Pictures, which men in their fallen Wisdom and sensual Inventions have been erecting and setting up, must now be broken down and demolished by those Weapons which are not Carnal, but Spiritual, and mighty through God to the bringing down the strong Holds of Satan, the Prince of Darkness. And those whom the Lord has deliver'd out of this spiritual Fondage, and from under the *Ægyptian Task-masters*, and has open'd their Eyes to behold their miserable Estate, and the great Desolation that is coming upon them who are yet in this City, whose rotten Foundation is tottering and ready to fall ; They cannot but call unto them and cry, *Haste, haste, and escape for your Lives*

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out of Babylon, *and flee to the City of Refuge*, as just *Lot* did at the Warning and Call of the Angel of the Lord, *to haste out of* Sodom, *and flee to the little City* Zoar; and how soon after was *Sodom* destroyed with Fire and Brimstone! and how eminently was the Arm and Power of the Lord manifested in preserving his People (to wit, *Lot* and his Family) in that day, who smote the *Sodomites*, which pursued his Messengers with Blindness, so that they could not find the Door to go into the House, *Gen.* 19. 11. even so we have seen in our day, when the Lord hath sent forth his Messengers and Servants from City to City, and from one Country to another, to perswade and exhort people, *to cease from the Evil of their Wayes, and to fear and obey the Lord that created them*: How hath the Wicked, even *Gog* and *Magog*, mustered up their Forces against us, the *Dragon* and his Angels against *Michael* and his Angels; but *Michael* our Prince shall have the Victory.

And we have seen the Lord to smite the *Ægyptians*, as he did *Pharaoh* and his Host, when they pursued the *Israelies*, and would not let them go free out of *Ægypt* according to the Mind and Will of the Lord, that they might Worship him; how wonderfully did the Lord God appear for their Deliverance, to the dividing the Waters of the great Deep, that his chosen People might pass thorough, and escape the Hands of their Enemies: *The Sea obeyed his Command, and fled*; *and* Jordan *was driven back*, &c. Exod. 14. 22. Psalm 114. 3. and *Pharaoh* and his Host overturned in the midst of the Sea, so that they saw the *Ægyptians* dead upon the Shore. Then they sung the Song of high Praises to the Lord, and the Songs of Deliverance to the God of *Israel*, ; whose mighty Wonders they had seen in the Deep. And many in this day can sing a Melodious Song of High Praises to the God of their Salvation, upon the Banks of *Sion*, and upon the Walls of *Jerusalem*, in the deep Sense of his many great Preservations and Miraculous Deliverances, which we have known since we were a People, by the saving Arm of his Power; unto which we ascribe all the Honour and Glory of his own Works, who is God over all, worthy to be Magnified, and in the highest Praised for ever and evermore.

And as we have stood in his Counsel; when with Tribulations and Temptations on every hand we have been surrounded and beset, as the *Israelites* were when the Sea was before them, and the *Egyptians* pursuing after them, and Hills and Mountains on every hand; yet standing still, and in Patience waiting upon the Lord, we have seen the great Salvation of God manifested in our greatest Straits, and his Strength in our Weakness. And although we be but poor and despicable Instruments, as in the Eyes and Esteem of the Wise and Prudent of this World, yet is the Wisdom of this World Foolishness with God; and he is making choice of the Despised and Contemptible things of this World, to Confound the Wisdom of the Wise, and to bring to Naught the Understanding of the Prudent; that no Flesh may glory in his Presence, before whom every tall Cedar and sturdy Oak must bow, and all Shrubs must be rooted up; not by Sword, nor by Spear, or any Carnal Weapon, but by the Word of God's Power, which is quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged Sword: which Word also is as a Fire and an Hammer to cut down, burn up and beat in pieces all the Ungodliness of Wicked men, that stands in Opposition to Him whose right it is to Reign in the Kingdoms of Men.

And we have seen the Uncircumcised *Philistims* to fall Heaps upon Heaps, as they did by the hand of *Sampson*, who had no better Instrument of War than the Jaw-bone of an Ass; which in outward appearance was very Contemptible; yet standing in that living Faith which gives Victory, the Conquest is known. And this is that Faith which we contend for, which works by Love, and is that Word of Faith which the Apostles preached, by which the Just live to God, and is much more pretious than Gold that perisheth——One Grain of it (if no bigger than a Grain of Mustard-Seed) is sufficient to enable for an Encounter against the potent Enemy of the Soul: Although he come like a roaring Lyon, seeking his prey, in this Faith there is safety for the Righteous, by which the holy men of God stood and were upheld, when they fought the good Fight of Faith; and by which the Noble Warriors and Antients of *Israel* obtained

obtained a Good Report, and did many Valient Acts, and got Victory by and through it, by the stopping the Mouthes of Lyons, quenching the Violence of Fire, escaping the Edge of the Sword, out of Weakness were made Strong. And by this Faith, Women received their Dead raised to Life again, &c. *Heb.* 11. 34, 35. And others were Tortured, not accepting Deliverance, that they might obtain a better Resurrection.

And it was by Virtue of this Living Faith, that *David* whilst a Stripling, and a Keeper of his Father's Sheep, went forth against, and Encountred with *Goliah* of *Gath*, that Great Gyant, and Uncircumciled *Philistim*, who had defied the Armies of the Living God, and insulted over them, because of his Greatness and Strength; at which *Saul* was Discouraged. But says little *David*, *Let no mans Heart fail because of him; Thy Servant will go and fight with this* Philistim. Now when *Saul* seemed to Discourage him, *David* answered and said unto *Saul*, *Thy Servant kept his Father's Sheep; and there came a Lyon, and likewise a Bear, and took a Sheep out of the Flock; and I went out and rescued the Lamb, and slew the Lyon and the Bear, And this Uncircumcised* Philistim *shall be as one of them, because he railed on the Host of the Living God.* Moreover, he said, *The Lord that delivered me out of the Paw of the Lyon, and out of the Paw of the Bear; he will deliver me out of the Hand of this* Philistin. So *David* went out against him (not with *Saul's* Armour; For says he, *I cannot go with these, for I am not accustomed*) with his Staff and his Sling, and Five SMOOTH Stones taken out of a Brook; and when the *Philistim* saw *David* come, he Disdained him, being but a Boy, and for the Meanness of his Instruments of War, and said, *Am I a Dog, that thou comest to me with a Staff?* with other Disdainful and Approbious Language. But *David* answered, *Thou comest to me with a Sword and with a Spear, and a Shield: But I come unto thee in the Name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the Armies of* Israel, *whom thou hast defied; This Day will the Lord deliver thee*

thee into mine Hands, &c. 1 Sam. Chapter 17. Read throughout.

So *David* slew this great Giant with a Sling and a smooth Stone out of his Bag, which was but a mean Instrument, yet being handled in the Faith and Power of God, prevailed, and gave *Israel* Victory over their Enemies.

Oh! how precious is this Faith, whereby the Righteous obtain Victory over both Inward and Outward Enemies from Generation to Generation?

This is that Faith which cometh by Hearing, and Hearing by the Word of God; which Word is nigh thee, even in thy Heart and in thy Mouth, *Rom.* 10. 8. And is the same Word unto which *Moses* recommended and directed the Children of *Israel*, and earnestly pressed them to the keeping of the Commandment, and the Word in the Heart, and said, *It is* NOT *in Heaven, that thou shouldst say, Who shall ascend to bring it from thence?* NEITHER *is it beyond the Sea, that thou shouldst say, Who shall go over to fetch it us? but the Word is very nigh thee, in thy Heart and in thy Mouth, for to do it. Behold, this day I have set before thee Life and Good, Death and Evil*, Deuteronomy, Chap. 30. Verse 12, 13, 14, 15.

From whence I conclude, and am fully satisfied, that Life and Good consists in, and is obtained by hearkening unto and obeying that Word that is nigh in the Heart. And on the contrary, by slighting and rejecting of it, Death and Evil cometh upon the Souls of all those who running after Empty Words and after the Tree of Knowledge, and come not to the Guidance of that Inward WORD in the Heart, which is able to give them Acceptance with the Lord.

For *Without Faith* (viz. in this Word which purifies the Heart) *it is impossible to please God*; and by it we have Access unto him. But a Dead, Historical or Notional Faith will profit none: But that which purifieth the Heart, and worketh by Love, and purgeth the Conscience from Dead Works

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(of which Christ is the Author and Finisher too) that only will profit.

And this True and Living Faith is known by the Blessed Effects and Works of it; for as the Body without the Spirit is Dead, so Faith without Works is Dead also, *James* 2. 26.

And all those that are true Believers in Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God, that takes away the Sins of the World, they come to find the Powerful Operation of this Faith in his Blood to cleanse and purifie them from all Filthiness both of Flesh and Spirit, and hereby are made Vessels of Honour, and fit Temples for the Lord to dwell in, being sanctified through the Blood of Cleansing, and Washed with pure Water, and made clean thereby; so that an Acceptable Sacrifice and a Pure Offering is offered up unto God from a clean Vessel, which is a Sweet Savour unto him, and well pleasing in his Sight; and hereby we know that we are of God, because we have Admittance into his Presence, and free Access to the Throne of his Grace; so that whatsoever we ask by Faith, and in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is granted unto us.

And this Faith is the Gift of God, and is received and witnessed in receiving Christ the true Light. But they that deny the Light, are Strangers to this Faith, and so are ignorant of the Blood of Cleansing, and of that which should reconcile them to God, and discover unto them the Mysteries of his Kingdom.

But my true desires are, that all who in any measure are stirred up, and feel an inquiry and search begun in their Hearts after the Lord and the knowledge of his Way, that such may receive the word of Truth into their Hearts, and that it may be as Seed sown upon good Ground, which takes Root downward and brings forth Fruit upward, and an Heavenly increase to God and Satisfaction and Comfort to their Souls may be witnessed, that all old things may be done away, the old Heavens and

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the old Earth, with the beggarly Elements and Rudiments of the World, that the new Heavens and the new Earth may be known, wherein dwells Righteousness, and Peace, and Joy in the holy Ghost. Oh! Prise the Day of your Visitation and let it not slip over your Heads unregarded, lest it be said unto you as it was to *Jerusalem* of Old, *How often would I have gathered you as a Hen gathers her Chickens under her Wings? But ye would not; Behold, your Habitation shall be left unto you desolate*, Matth. 23. 37, 38. Now mark, 'twas not because they COULD not come unto Christ, (but because they WOULD not) that they were left ungathered; there was a Sensual and Corrupt Will in them that would not be subject to him that called them, nor bow down their Necks to Christ's Yoke, but Stiff-necked and Rebellious were they, wherefore Christ withdrew himself, and said unto them, *Henceforth ye shall not see me, until ye say, Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord*, vers. 39.

Now, consider your Latter End, and labour to make your Calling and Election sure, that when you come to render a final Account of the Deeds done in the Body to the Great and Mighty Judge of Heaven and Earth (before whose Tribunal Seat of Judgment All must appear) you may receive the Sentence of PEACE, and the Reward of WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT, ENTER INTO THE JOY OF THY LORD. Oh! this will be a joyful Sentence, and more Estimable than all the Glory of *Egypt*, or the Treasures of Ten Thousand Worlds, where the Soul comes to possess an Everlasting Inheritance, and a Crown of Life and Immortality among

mong them that are sanctified, where the Song of High Praises and Everlasting Halelujahs is sung to the God of their Salvation, who hath wiped away all Tears from their Eyes, and Sighing and Sorrow is fled away; Which are the true Breathings of her who desires the Everlasting Well-being of the Souls of all People;

Swarthmore, *the* 2*d Month*, 1679. Isabel Yeamans.

THE END.